

Oxford Democrat.

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OXFORD DEMOCRAT,

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G. W. ELLIOT,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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the Daily Advertiser Office) Boston, is Agent for

the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and

Baltimore.

Book and Job Printing

PROMPTLY AND NEATLY EXECUTED.

EDUCATION.

REPORT

SCHOOL APPARATUS,

Delivered before The Oxford Teacher's Association,

Jan. 5th, 1849.

The Committee to whom was entrusted the

subject of School Apparatus, has had the same

under consideration, and hereby submits to the

Association for its action, the following Report:

Your committee finds that there is a great,

almost a universal, lack of Apparatus in our

Primary Schools. In some few schools there is a

little, of no great importance, however, and sel-

dom used; but, generally, in filling out the

School Register, the teacher may, with propri-

ety, return under the head of Apparatus, "my-

self and black-board," since these two articles

seem all that are considered necessary in ex-

plaining to pupils truths, that are presented

about as clearly as any *Virginia abstractions*, and

that, being abstractedly received, are dis-

tractedly remembered.

There is an absolute need of suitable Appa-

ratu in every District School. Teachers must

have helps in teaching, and scholars must have

helps to study. Mind is to be awakened. The

young attention is to be aroused, and kept ex-

cited—to be continued in life, till it has strength

to go alone, and take care of itself. The teacher

may do this orally, without the aid of dia-

grams or visible illustrations, but his would be

much like the labor of *Sisyphus*, condemned, as

poets fable, to forever roll a vast rock up a hill

—a "never ending, still beginning toil; for, as

soon as it reached the summit, it rolled back again

down to the plain."

The growing intellect must be ever employed

in school, during the proper hours assigned for

study. It must be occupied with ideas, clear as

the bubbling spring, or as the sparkling rill—

These must be presented with illustrations that

are evident to the senses, those inlets of the

mind, of the soul, and that teacher ere great-

ly, who instructs his scholars without their un-

derstanding him, fully, definitely, minutely—

The beginnings of knowledge are from without

—a fact that the educator needs to remember

always. Nature is an excellent book for the

young to read—and a faithful teacher too—

She leads her pupils onward, step by step, so-

berly but surely. She develops mind, thought and

feeling, through the medium of the senses—

She deals in practical illustrations. Her Appa-

ratu is as extensive as useful. It is spread

around on every side—in the heavens—on the

earth—by land or by sea. After her should the

faithful teacher pattern, if he would excel in his

profession, and though he may not imitate her

closely, yet must he as nearly as he can.

Apparatus, and by this may be understood

anything used to illustrate or explain what can-

not be readily understood merely from books, is

can make learning so attractive, that his schol-

ars will take to it without any other than "moral

suggestion."

Young minds first become acquainted with

form or figure in its many relations, and with

these it can be kept longest interested. They

wish to learn things and the uses of things, rather

than merely words. Words they should learn,

but only as expressive of, and in connection with

things.

Your committee believes that Apparatus is

much needed in teaching Spelling and Defining.

There are many words spelled with passable ac-

curacy only after a tiresome repetition, fatiguing

alike to teacher and pupil, that might be learned

and understood in a short time, if their spelling

were accompanied with an illustration addressed

to one or more of the senses. *Pyramid* is a

hard word, a very puzzler for the tyro to spell,

and much harder for him to remember after it is

spelled, unless he has shown to him the figure

which this word represents. When that is seen,

he attaches a precise, and, as it were, a tangible

idea, which will hardly be forgotten. Many

words might be mentioned, such as *hypotenuse*,

ellipsoid, *parallelogram*, *parallelopipedon*, &c.,

exceedingly difficult for scholars to learn to

spell, as spelling is usually taught, but that can

be learned with comparative ease, if the things

for which they stand are exhibited to the eye.

And then, how much this way of teaching or-

thography will relieve the instructor from an

incalculable amount of mental drudgery—how

much it lightens his burden—how much it as-

sists the pupil in forming clear ideas and vivid

conceptions.

I have spoken of manufactured Apparatus.

This is exceedingly useful, but no more so than

what exists already formed. An apt teacher

will make nature contribute to his stock of Appa-

ratu. He will make use of—will find occasion

to introduce before his school, a *pebble*, a

leaf, a *twig*, a *plant*, an *apple*, or an *ear of corn*,

and by means of these articles will convey to

the minds of his scholars many practical ideas.

Your committee, in consideration of the im-

portance of School Apparatus, as an essential

aid to teachers in imparting information, recom-

mends that every teacher in this County provide

himself with suitable Apparatus for explaining

the Common Branches of education. This will

be to him what tools are to the mechanic, which

custom not only requires the mechanic to have,

but to know how to use.

The teacher should be distinguished by the

implements of his profession, which are requisite

to render him a practical worker, a real bene-

factor, a utilitarian of the highest order. When

he furnishes himself with these he will be much

more efficient, which an appreciating public

must perceive, and will not fail to abundantly

reward.

E. P. HINDS, Committee.

Oxford Teachers' Association.

Association met at Buckfield Village, Friday,

Jan. 5, at 2 P. M., in the School House. The

proceedings of the last meeting were read by

the Secretary. After which the following Reso-

lution was presented by Mr. T. Chase, which,

after an interesting discussion in which several

members participated, was adopted.

Resolved, "That the inconveniences of our

School-rooms are among the most prominent ob-

stacles which retard the progress of our Common

Schools."

The following Resolution was presented:

Resolved, "That whispering is inadmissible in

Common Schools," which after a few remarks,

was laid on the table.

Adjourned to meet in the Meeting House at

6-1-2 P. M.

EVENING SESSION. Met at the hour ap-

pointed. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Foster, followed

by an address from J. G. Eveleth, A. B.

Voted, That the thanks of the Association be

presented Mr. Eveleth for his able, interesting,

and instructive address.

Mr. Hinds then read his Report on School

Apparatus, which was accepted and ordered to

be printed.

Adjourned till the 6th, at 9 A. M.

Met according to adjournment, Saturday,

Jan. 6th.

Singing, "Araby's daughter."

The Resolution laid on the table yesterday,

was now taken up, and after an animated dis-

cussion of some length, again laid on the table,

again taken up, and amended to read as follows:

Resolved, "That whispering in our Common

Schools, is not admissible, except at times fixed

and limited by the Teacher."

A Poem, "The Teacher's Mission," written

by a lady, a member of the Association, was

then read by the Secretary. A vote of thanks

was given the authoress, accompanied with a re-

quest that she furnish a copy for publication.

Voted, That the President appoint a com-

mittee of three, to draft Resolutions. Chair ap-

pointed Messrs. Eveleth, T. Chase, and Hinds.

Adjourned till 1 P. M.

Adjourned. Met at the appointed time—

Association attended to business pertaining to

its members.

Singing, "The night was dark and fearful."

Voted, That the next meeting be held at

South Paris, the second Saturday of May next.

That the Secretary be a committee to make the

requisite arrangements.

Messrs. Eveleth and Hinds were appointed a

committee to procure some one to deliver the

customary address.

A Dissertation was now read by the Secretary,

written by a lady, a member of the Association.

Subject, "The Teacher's Reward." A vote of

thanks was presented the writer, with a request

that she furnish a copy of the same for publica-

tion.

Mr. Eveleth, chairman of committee on

Resolutions, read the following, which were se-

verally adopted:

Resolved, "That it is the object of this Asso-

ciation to reform the character, and elevate the

standard of our Common Schools.

Resolved, That teachers have a right to ex-

pect the co-operation of parents in the perform-

ance of their arduous duties.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to

the teachers of this County, to use their greatest

endeavors to induce parents and guardians to

make frequent visits to Schools.

Resolved, That the inconveniences of the

School Room are among the greatest obstacles

which the teacher has to contend.

Resolved, That it is the duty of the several

members of this association to make all laudable

efforts to attend its regular meetings.

Resolved, That the time teachers spend in at-

tending the County Associations should be al-

lowed them by the members of their several

Districts."

The following question was adopted for dis-

cussion at the next meeting—

Resolved, "That Emulation should be encour-

aged, as a means of instruction, in Common

Schools."

Voted unanimously, That the sincere thanks

of this Association be presented those citizens,

who have liberally and kindly extended to its

members attending the present meeting, the

hospitalities of this Village.

Voted to adjourn. E. P. HINDS, Sec.

POETRY.

(From the Boston Post.)

Sonnet—"Is Bitter Cold."

Now Winter is supreme, and earth's "wan cheek,"

Nay, the whole face of Nature, is thick o'er

With the white snow profusely spread, as 't were

Laid over to ease the aching, sharp edge of bleak

Old Winter's barbarous blast on plain and peak.

The cloud that free and gorgeous erst did soar,

Now earth-bound lies in still entanglement,

To treat of tyrant's fierce domination.

It seems now sweet warmth we shall forget,

The keen white air so chilly ever tings;

Ah, no, beneath this snowy covering.

The ray Summer darts, and with a Spring

Shall up ere while, and all the sun will sing.

The silent task till all the birds do sing.

THE STORY TELLERS.

(From the Boston Journal.)

THE NEWSPAPER.

The old farm-house was a quiet, pleasant

look, as the setting sun gilded its small windows,

where the luxuriant grape vines were care-

fully trained. In the open door sat the farmer,

with a little morocco-covered book in his hand,

on which his attention had been fixed for the

last half hour. He was a man of method and

order—old Richard Heath—and aside from his

regular account books, which were kept with

scrupulous care, he always set down in this little

book, in the simplest manner possible, all his ex-

penses, (no very complicated account, by the

way), and all he received during the year, (in

the real metal), as he said, "not by the way of

trade."

This last account he had just reckoned up,

and the result was highly satisfactory, if one

might judge from the pleasant expression of his

face as he turned to his wife, and addressed her

by her pretty, old-fashioned name.

"Millicent," said he, "this has been a lucky

year. How little we thought when we moved

on to this place, twenty-five years ago, that we

should ever get five hundred a year out of the

rocky, barren farm."

"It does pay for a good deal of hard work,"

said she, "to see how different things look

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOLD INTELLIGENCE.

From the Union.
Extract of a letter from Thomas O. Larkin, Esq., late consul, and now navy agent of the United States, to the Secretary of State, dated at Monterey, Nov. 16th, 1848, and received in this city on Friday evening last.

"The digging and washing for gold continues to increase on the Sacramento placer, so far as regards the number of persons engaged in the business, and the size and quantity of metal obtained. I have had in my hands several pieces of gold, about twenty three carats fine, weighing from one to two pounds, and have it from good authority that pieces have been found weighing sixteen pounds. Indeed, I have heard of one specimen that weighed twenty-five pounds. There are many men at the placers, who in June last had not one hundred dollars, and now in possession of from five to twenty thousand dollars, which they made by digging gold and trading with the Indians. Several, I believe, have made more.

A common calico shirt, or even a silver dollar, has been taken by an Indian for gold, without regard to size; and a half to one ounce of gold—say \$3 to \$16—is considered the price of a shirt, while from three to ten ounces is the price of a blanket. One hundred dollars a day for several days in succession was and is considered a common remuneration for the labor of a gold-digger, though few work over a month, at a time as the fatigue is very great. From July to October one half of the gold hunters have been afflicted either with the fever and ague or the intermittent fever, and 20 days absence from the placer during those months is necessary to escape those diseases. There have not, however, been many fatal cases.

"The gold is now sold, from the smallest imaginary piece in size to pieces of one pound in weight, at \$16 per troy ounce for all the purposes of commerce; but those who are under the necessity of raising coin to pay duties to the government are obliged to accept from \$10 to \$11 per ounce. All the coin in California is likely to be locked up in the custom house, as the last tariff of our Congress is in force here in regard to the receipt of money.

"Could you know the value of the California placer as I know it, you would think you had been instrumental in obtaining a most splendid purchase for our country, to put no other construction on the late treaty.

"The placer is known to be two or three hundred miles long, and as discoveries are constantly being made, it may prove 1,000 miles in length,—in fact, it is not counting the intermediate miles yet unexplored. From five to ten millions of gold must be our export this and next year. How many more years this state of things will continue, I cannot say.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Extract from letter No. 24, October 25, 1848, from Commodore Jones to the honorable Secretary of the Navy.

"Nothing, sir, can exceed the deplorable state of things in all Upper California at this time, growing out of the maddening effects of the gold mania. I am sorry to say that even in this squadron some of the officers are a little tainted, and have manifested resistances under moderate restrictions imperiously demanded by the exigencies of the times, as you will perceive by the enclosed paper, addressed to three of the lieutenants.

I am, however, happy to say that I have not been disappointed in the good effects of the means employed to prevent desertion, and to maintain order in the squadron, as but one desertion has taken place since the rush of gold from this ship on the evening of the 18th inst.; and that the views and opinions of the few officers who were skeptical as to the right or efficiency of the means employed to prevent offences and to punish crime have undergone a most favorable change, whereby I shall be enabled to keep on this coast until the whirlwind of anarchy and confusion, confounded is superseded by the establishment of some legal government potent enough to enforce law and to prevent life and property, which at this time is in great jeopardy everywhere outside our bulwarks."

[No. 35.]

FLAG SHIP OHIO.

Bay of Monterey, Nov. 1, 1848.
Sir: By Lieutenant Latham, who left here on the 26th ult., in the ship "Isaac Walton," for the coast of Peru, we expected to intercept the Panama steamer forwarded several communications acquainting you with my movements up to that date, which I hope you will receive early and that they may prove satisfactory.

The enclosed extract from my last letter (No. 31) will convey the unpleasant tidings of the utter prostration of all law and order in our California possessions, brought about by the extraordinary developments of gold in this vicinity.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,
THOS. AP. C. JONES,
Commander-in-chief U. S. naval forces,
Pacific Ocean.

Hon. J. Y. Mason,
Secretary of the Navy.

FLAG SHIP OHIO, BAY OF MONTEREY.

November 1, 1848.
[No. 36.]
Sir: In my letter No. 24, from La Paz, I recommended the retention on this coast of cruising ships of the Pacific squadron, and pointed out how they could be kept in repair and manned without returning round Cape Horn to the Atlantic States. When that recommendation was made, I had no conception of the state of things in Upper California at the present, and fear for years to come, it will be impossible for the U. S. to maintain any naval military establishment in California as at present, no hope of reward nor fear of punishment is sufficient to make binding any contract between man and man upon the soil of California.

To send troops on here would be needless, for they would immediately desert. To show what chance there is for apprehending deserters, I enclose an advertisement which had been widely circulated for a fortnight, but without bringing in a single deserter. Among the deserters from the squadron are some of the best petty officers and seamen, having but few months to serve, and large balances due them, amounting in the aggregate to over ten thousand dollars.

There is a great deficiency of coin in the country and especially in the mines; the traders, by taking advantage of the pressing necessity of the digger not infrequently compelling him to sell his mine of gold for a silver dollar; and it has been bought under like circumstances for fifty cents per ounce of Indians. If this state of depauperate laboring miners are now subjected, and must be until coin is more abundant. Disease, congestive and intermittent fever, is making great havoc among the diggers, as they are almost destitute of food and clothing, and for most part, without houses of any kind to protect them from the inclement season now at hand.

The commerce of this coast may be said to be entirely cut off by desertion. No seamen does a merchant ship arrive in any of the ports of California than all hands leave here in some instances, tier.

captain cook, and all. At this moment, there are a number of merchant ships thus abandoned at San Francisco, and such will be the fate of all that subsequently arrive. The master of the ship "Isaac Walton," that brought success to the squadron to this port, without success, \$500 per month to Callao and thence \$200 per month home, to disbanded volunteers, not seamen. We were obliged at last to supply him with four men whose terms of service were drawing to a close.

This state of things is confined to California alone. Oregon is fast depopulating, her inhabitants pour into the gold diggings and foreign residents and runaway sailors from the Sandwich Islands are arriving by every vessel that approaches this coast.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
THOS. AP. C. JONES,
Commander-in-chief, Pacific Squadron,
Hon. J. Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

MONTEREY, (Cal.) Oct. 23, 1848.

GENERAL. I arrived here on the 18th inst., from San Diego, and have paid the four companies of the 1st New York regiment in full, and they have all started for the gold mines. The three companies composing the command of Lieut. Col. Burton are now here, and will be mustered out to-day or to-morrow, and paid by Major Hill immediately, as the residents are extremely anxious to get rid of them; they have the places in their power. Nearly all the men in company "F" 31 artillery have deserted.

We have the Ohio, Warren, Dale, Lexington and Southampton in port; but they cannot land a man, as they desert as soon as they set foot on shore. The only thing the ships could do in case of an outbreak would be to fire upon the town. The volunteers at Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, &c. behaved very well—no murmuring or difficulties of any kind with them; they complained that they were not allowed travelling allowances.

The funds from Mazatlan have at last reached here; the amount is \$139,000. I arrived very opportunely, as we have expended nearly all we had. The amount is a great deal more than will be required, as there are at present but two companies in California—one of the 1st dragoons, the other of 4d artillery; the latter reduced to mere skeleton by desertion, and the former in a fair way to share the same fate. To pay the present force (provided the companies are filled up) for a year. Treasury notes are good for nothing now; bills on the United States could not be procured on any terms. Gold dust can be purchased for eight or ten dollars the ounce, and it is said to be worth \$18 in the United States, consequently all remittances are made in it.

Col. Mason, and most of the army officers are at Fort Sutter. Commodore Jones thinks it would be very imprudent to bring the public funds on shore, except in such sums as may be required for immediate use. He does not like to have a ship here, on account of the difficulty of keeping the men.

The gold fever rages as bad as ever, and the quantity collected has not diminished but increased. Provisions, clothing, and all the necessities of life are at most exorbitant prices.

Living was always expensive in this country, but now it passes all reason—board four dollars per day, washing five or six dollars per dozen. Mercantile clerks are receiving from 1,500 to 4,000 dollars per annum, and the government will do for civil officers, I do not know. Salaries will have to correspond with the times. The pay of governors, judges, &c., as allowed in the United States, will hardly compare with that paid to salesmen and shop clerks here.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM RICH, A. P. U. S. A.,
Gen. N. TOWSON, Paymaster Gen. U. S. A.,
Washington, D. C.

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

We find in the Boston Atlas an interesting communication from a correspondent in the copper mine region of Lake Superior. One of them details some remarkable discoveries which have been recently made a few miles interior from the mouth of the Ontonagon river.

A large mass of native copper, the weight estimated at seven tons, was found in the loose ground. A vast amount of labor had been expended upon it. Every inch of it had been battered and hammered over, and attempts had been made to melt it, and place it on a platform. All this was the labor of a race of beings, and yet the workings are too ancient to be those of white men. Many loads of rude stone hammers are found lying a few feet below the surface. They are so abundant that in stoning up them that to them, and in some examination, two feet in diameter, and from examination, two and three hundred years old, are growing out of the workings, and have to be followed, to enable the miners to excavate the earth. Remains of charred wood, and levers, and coppered girders, are found under these trees and under the primitive tools. These ancient workings can be traced for more than half a mile through the forest, and the extent of the excavation is not like amount of labor. Their great antiquity would seem to carry us back to other tribes. Yet it is not impossible that the present Indians may be the descendants of those who wrought them.

GOLD EXCAVATION. The Kennebec Journal states that Capt. Cloughson of Mr. A. A. Cough, of Monmouth, by his brother's country, who is in command of a whale ship out of New York, has been into San Francisco and writes to his friends that he has gold enough and is coming home.

Mr. Cloughson signally distinguished himself some three years ago by recapturing his ship from the natives.

THE COOLEST MAN EXTANT. We heard of a man, the other day, who, while the California fever was at its height, very gravely and deliberately promulgated his sentiments somewhat in this wise:—If I was a poor man, without a land, and had no business, and was without a cent in the world, and never expected to have any, and had no father nor mother, nor sister, nor brother—I wouldn't go to California! He may safely be considered as in no danger of catching the infection. [Salem Register.]

SERVING A TERM AS THEY DO TURKES.—A Turk was publicly beheaded at Constantinople on the 20th ult., for the crime of having, while in a state of intoxication, said that he did not care a straw for Allah the prophet.

A new paper has been started in Baltimore, called the City Advertiser.

VALUABLE OIL PAINTINGS. The Solicitor of the Treasury advertises in the Washington Union that sealed proposals will be received until the 1st of March, for a list of rare oil paintings—sold for the benefit of the United States. There are fifteen paintings to be disposed of. Mr. Solicitor Gillet says that he is advised that these pictures are the most valuable ever offered in the American market; it is not probable that such splendid productions will again be offered to the public.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

"The Union—It must be preserved."

PARIS, MAINE, JANUARY 20, 1849.

NO PARTY.

A friend in a private letter to us, complains our remarks upon Gen. Taylor's being a no party man, and his friends supporting him with the expectation of his being a no party President, were unjust. But we think not. Gen. Taylor again and again refused to be supported as a party candidate, and declared that he would be President, if at all, only of the whole people, and with a knowledge of this fact he was nominated by the Whig Convention. The people were called upon to support him as a no party man, but it was all deception, for it will turn out that he is a party man and nothing else, or that he is controlled by a few party leaders, not himself, knowing, as President, how to command.

We need not, however, spend time in speculating upon this subject. His course will soon be known, and possibly we may find ourselves for once mistaken.

We never had any sympathy for men, especially whigs, claiming to belong to no party, or to have formed no political opinions. It is virtually acknowledging themselves ignorant of all government measures, by whatever party administered. "No party" is the name of the old party, which is the same now as it was in the federal convention; and which has so often changed its name without once changing its principles. Democracy, on the contrary, has never changed her name. It is the same that it was three thousand years ago; the same that it was when the Pharaohs of Greece and Rome carried the glory and prosperity of those republics to the highest pitch of human greatness. Names are nothing. There are but two parties; there never has been but two parties; all the rest are but modifications of these two. They received their names—the names which they now wear—above three thousand years ago; and have retained them ever since, because those names are characteristic and descriptive; they describe what they name; and go to the root and foundation of all party, which is founded in the radical question, whether *pro* or *contra* the government of the people, *demos*, (the people.) *Krateo*, to govern, and in these words is contained the sum of party distinction. Is it not so now? Are not named and other corporations the life and soul of the whig party in the United States? And are not the people the sole constituents of the other party? Have not the people struggled for years to govern their representatives; and have not all who follow these corporations resisted the will of the people, and trampled the rights of instruction under foot? Minor distinctions are nothing; names are nothing; all parties resolve themselves into two elements, the same which drove the Pharaohs of Rome to *Mans Sacer*, the same which now ranges one portion of the people of the United States against the rights of the people to control their representatives, their servants, and in favor of capital and corporations; and the same which now ranges another portion in favor of the rights of the people, and against monied power.

This is the state of parties now existing among us, as it has been for years before; it is steadily and truly a question between *pro* and *contra* the government of the people, and *money* on the one side, and *the people* on the other; between the intelligence and virtue of him to whom God gave the dominion of the world, and the dead weight of the purse of him who has loaded himself with the things of this world. Filled, drained, routed, and driven from power, under every name, which they could assume, this party at last undertakes to deny its own existence, while exerting itself with an energy never surpassed, to consolidate its ranks and to perpetuate its existence. It cries out *no party*; and in that cry seeks the destruction of the democratic party, and the triumph of its own. "No party" is the motto not infrequently inscribed on the standard of the federal aristocracy, and wherever you will show us a man with this word in his mouth, we will show you a man that figures at the head, or dangles at the tail of the most inveterate party that ever existed.

But this non-committal policy can no longer deceive the people. The policy by which a man most be guided now is *honesty*—the only kind that can long succeed in this day of dawning light and increasing knowledge. In the most frank and fearless manner he must lay his views on all-absorbing topics and measures which agitate the people, before the world, on playing fast and loose—no skulking behind some miserable subtlety—no mystery of concealment—no change of names; but calmly and dispassionately, with the manly tone of virtuous independence that characterizes every honest man, he must fully and explicitly declare his political doctrines. This course will win him the friendship of all whose good opinion is in the least degree valuable. A powerful platoon will cover all points with the impregnable armor of truth and equal justice, and protect him in his efforts against partial legislation, inequality, and monopoly.

If Gen. Taylor proves himself an independent party man, we shall respect him, for this need not prevent him from a nominating the government for the good of the Nation.

THE TEX TRIBES. Major Noah, in the N. Y. Sunday Times, contends that the "ten lost tribes" of Israel found their way to America, and originated the ancient cities of Mexico and Yucatan. This idea has been broached before, and a celebrated English nobleman has rendered himself conspicuous by the publication of a costly work on Central America, devoted to this theory. It will be remembered that William Penn held the idea that the North American Indians were the descendants of these ten tribes. The learned generally, however, refuse to give credence to the idea, as they find more reasons against it than in favor of it.

Major Noah, in justice to him be it said, makes a plausible argument on the unpopular side. He mentions a variety of circumstances which lead him to believe that the ancient inhabitants of Central America were of Jewish descent, and he contends that they were identified with the Israelites by many religious rites. Of these he particulars. 1. Their belief in one God. 2. In their computation of time by their ceremonies. 3. In their division of the year into four seasons. 4. In their erection of a temple, having an ark of the covenant, and also in their erection of altars. 5. By the division of the nation into tribes, with a chief or general such as their head. 6. By their laws of sacrifices, ablations, marriages, ceremonies in war and in peace, prohibitions of eating certain things, by traditions, history, character, appearance, affinity of their language to the Hebrew, and finally by that everlasting covenant of brothership exhibited in perpetual transmission of its seal in their flesh, a custom only of late relinquished.

But, in carrying out his views, the Major loses all chance of securing belief, by his wild extravagance. He first asserts that the Phoenicians found their way to America five hundred years previous to the migration of the Israelites. He then refers to the apocryphal book of Enoch to prove that the ten tribes went "a far journey," which consumed a year and a half, and presumes from this that they sought out the continent of America. According to Major Noah, they marched towards the eastern portion of Asia. Here some went into China, where he asserts, though on insufficient authority, that they are numerous to this day. Others remain in Tartary. Others, constituting the main body, crossed Babel's straits, and while there, more largely took an easterly course and settled around Hudson's Bay, the remainder advanced southwards, and finding the Phoenicians in Mexico, Yucatan, and Peru, drove them out, as their fathers had driven out from Judea the ancestors of these same Canaanites, centuries before. The gold of California, too, is brought in to play in this romantic theory; for, according to Major Noah, California was the Ophir of Solomon, whether his ships made their three years voyages, and brought back the precious metal for the temple.

As an offset to the latter part of the foregoing article, we give the following account of a recent Eastern traveler. He says—"There is a large mountain called 'Ophir,' contiguous to the coast of Malacca, and it abounds in gold." In sailing close along the shore at night the air was perfumed as if with spices and frankincense. The whole country teems with rich and rare products. The transition of the Jews from Malacca, up the coast to China, was an easy matter; indeed, the Chinese themselves visited the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. About the year A. D. 1154, the Raddi, Benjamin of Tudela, visited several Eastern countries, for the express purpose of ascertaining the residence of the lost tribes. The Raddi found some of his brethren in Samarcand, China, and Tibet; in the first city he found Jewish Israelites."

CALIFORNIA ITEMS. A company is now forming in New York for the purpose of opening a new route to the Pacific via San Juan River and Lake Nicaragua. It is said that four thousand dollars will make the San Juan River navigable to the Lake, through which steam vessels can pass to Leon, a small town within ten miles of the Pacific coast. Over this ten miles, a plank road or canal can be easily made, and the route will then be some five hundred miles nearer than by Chagres and Panama.

Among the New Yorkers who have gone or are going to California, are two brothers of William Hall; Mr. Fenno, the actor; Wm. Woodworth, the well known fancy dealer in Broadway; Mr. Bonfanti, Jr.; a son of Mr. Brackett, hardware dealer; and a son of Anshelm, the naturalist, who, it is said, will act as chief to an overland expedition, via St. Louis, Chihuahua, and Gila.

The New York True Sun states that a society was formed in that city on Monday, composed of 125 of the commercial town, who have determined to take the overland route to San Francisco. Six barreled revolvers are said to be so scarce in New York that they cannot be had on any terms.

Dates from Mazatlan to the 19th of December have been received. A new placer had been discovered, richer than any heretofore found.—U. S. store ship Lexington had left for the United States with \$200,000 worth of gold. A person direct from the gold regions fully confirms the most exaggerated statements in relation to the gold findings.

William Norris, of Philadelphia, sailed from New York on Tuesday for Panama. He has the charge of the railroad about to be made across the isthmus. He takes with him efficient assistant engineers, among whom are some of the United States topographical corps. It is expected that three years will be sufficient to complete the work.

Mr. Callahan's address, adopted by the southern convention in Washington, is said to be longer than President Polk's last message! It is not yet published.

THE CURRENCY.—The Finance Committee of the Senate have come to the conclusion to recommend the coinage of gold eagles and double gold eagles (250 pieces) as also the coinage of two and a half cent pieces, together with pennies, (cents of a mixture of silver and copper) which shall have the effect of reducing the present clumsy size of our copper coin, which excludes it almost from circulation in the southern and southwestern states. The bill provides for the coinage of this new coin will also contain provisions for the appointment of a U. S. assayer at San Francisco, with the privilege of running gold of a certain fineness into bars of 100, 200, or \$500 in value, and providing them with the stamp of the United States, which will make them a legal tender.

When the Bank of England, after the war with France, resumed specie payment, it was found impossible to coin money fast enough to meet the exigencies of the case, and a bill was introduced, and passed parliament, allowing the Bank of England to meet its indebtedness in bars of gold or bullion. The position of the government in regard to the gold diggers in California is somewhat similar. No mint could be demanded upon it in that quarter, and for the purpose of exportation, gold in bars with a government stamp of its value, is even preferable to coin.

But why not provide for the coinage of gold dollars while they are about it? The newspapers, from one extremity of the Union to the other, are almost unanimous in advocating the measure. It will have to be done sooner or later. Than why not now? We go for it, heart and soul, purse and pocket. Only think of discarding the tattered pocket-books in which now-a-days people carry dirty, crumpled and torn bank-notes—rags—and substituting a pretty fair fingers of a wife that is, or a wife that is to be! Imagine how beautiful a spectacle it would be to hold up one's crimson purse occasionally to the light, in order that the gleam of the yellow, low boys might shine through the interstices. How refreshing a music would be the tink of Asia. Here some went into China, where he asserts, though on insufficient authority, that they are numerous to this day. Others remain in Tartary. Others, constituting the main body, crossed Babel's straits, and while there, more largely took an easterly course and settled around Hudson's Bay, the remainder advanced southwards, and finding the Phoenicians in Mexico, Yucatan, and Peru, drove them out, as their fathers had driven out from Judea the ancestors of these same Canaanites, centuries before. The gold of California, too, is brought in to play in this romantic theory; for, according to Major Noah, California was the Ophir of Solomon, whether his ships made their three years voyages, and brought back the precious metal for the temple.

God's Lady's Book for FEBRUARY, is received, and a splendid number it is. It contains 22 Engravings, and 84 pages of matter. We have so frequently spoken of the merits of this work, that any new praise on our part seems to be totally unneeded. We will only add that God's is determined not to be out done.—The Lady's Book and Lady's Daily Newspaper will be sent to one address for \$5.

THE SCALPEL.—A JOURNAL OF HEALTH. We have received the first number of a medical periodical, bearing the above name. It is published in New York by Edward H. Dixon, M. D. The work is designed for professional and popular reading and the exposure of quackery. This number contains much useful information, and the editor writes in a fearless and forcible style, that warrants us in saying that imposition will be roughly handled wherever it falls under his notice. Price 25 cents per number.

PORTLAND EXCHANGE.—A bill has passed the House of Congress appropriating \$110,000 for the purchase, by the General Government, of the Portland Exchange. The bill will no doubt pass the Senate.

CONGRESS.—In the passage of the civil bill on Tuesday, amendments were adopted appropriating \$150,000 to finish the patent office; also \$200,000, to enable the secretary of the treasury to redeem bounty land scrip.

The mayor and common council of Washington city have petitioned congress to empower them, indirectly, to abolish the slave trade in the district of Columbia. Major Gaines, of Kentucky, presented the petition in the house on Monday. This is an important and glorious sign. It is taking hold of the subject in the right way.—Atlas.

The petition does not appear to have been officially given in the congress proceedings.—"By Mr. Gaines: the petition of Silas H. Hill and other members of the city council of Washington, in the district of Columbia praying congress to empower the authorities of Washington and Georgetown to make laws to that effect."

Major Gaines, upon objection being made, moved to suspend the rules in order that he might present the petition, but finally withdrew the motion, and Mr. Speaker Winthrop announced that there was no question before the house. It is curious that the Atlas should find a "glorious sign" in the withdrawal of this petition.

RAIL ROAD IRON. We learn from the Arkansas that V. D. Davis, Esq., President of the Backfield Branch Railroad, has contracted for the rails for that road, delivered in Portland, on such terms that they will stand the company at something less than \$40 the gross ton. This is considered to be exceedingly low.

REPUBLICAN JOURNAL. The editor of this staunch democratic paper, Benj. Griffin, Esq., has resigned his position, and is succeeded by Geo. B. Moore, Esq.

EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN. Gov. Dewey recommends that the regents of the university and state superintendent constitute a board to prescribe the course of study, and the books to be used in all the schools of the state. This board should have the selection of the libraries and apparatus of such schools, and the fixing a standard of qualification for teachers, and a plan for school houses. The regents will submit for action at the present legislative session, an efficient, uniform system of common schools, adapted to the wants of the people. The establishment of normal schools, at which teachers can be properly educated and prepared to perform their duties, is recommended as soon as the finances of the state will permit.

The late decision of the supreme court of the United States, declaring unconstitutional the law of this state taxing immigrant passengers, will prove most disastrous to our benevolent organizations for the protection of poor passengers. Our commissioners will thus be thrown back upon the city or the state, and upon the city, we presume, will fall the whole burden of supporting the emigrants. The state, it is said, will have to refund two hundred thousand dollars of passenger money to the merchants. [N. Y. Sun.] Massachusetts will be obliged to do the same, for the above decision applies to all the states as well as New York.

The people of Sandusky, Ohio, got up a bank funeral procession in memory of the broken bank of Sandusky. The procession marched through the streets, headed by a dray on which was drawn a coffin labelled with bills of the bank, and a band of music playing the dead march.—A hole was cut in the ice, and the coffin, with appropriate ceremonies plunged in. The crowd then quietly dispersed.

Joseph Mitchell, a Penobscot Indian aged 25 years, was arrested at Bangor on Friday, on a charge of the murder of his father on Tuesday, Jan. 16. He was committed to await his trial at the supreme court in June next. Mitchell has been in the New Hampshire state prison for three years for setting fire to buildings. John Mitchell and Elizabeth Pool, two Indian witnesses, were committed for want of bail.

A young Baptist minister from Mississippi has been detected in New York city in stealing lists of books from different stores where he purchased small quantities of stationery. The felony was compounded by his pious friends, and he has returned to Mississippi.

MR. CLAY THE GUEST OF GEN. TAYLOR. Letters received at Cincinnati announce the arrival of Mr. Clay at Baton Rouge, where he was cordially received and entertained by General Taylor. The latter is to leave for Washington on the 1st of February.

It is said that Lewis Cass, Jr., the newly appointed charge d'affaires to Rome, will take passage in the U. S. store ship Supply, now preparing to sail from Genport, about the 15th of February, for the Brazil, and thence to the Mediterranean.

A man named Edward Mahan, was arrested in New Bedford on the 18th inst., charged with being the murderer of Mr. Parker, tax collector, at Manchester, N. H., in Feb., 1845. Mahan is a seaman, and had confessed the story of the murder of Parker to one of his shipmates.

DEAD LETTERS. No fewer than nineteen thousand one hundred and seventeen dead letters were transmitted on Wednesday by post, to Washington—they being those accumulated at the Boston post office during the last quarter of a year.

The Governor of Ohio, in his message, takes strong grounds against the extension of slavery to the acquired territories.

ILLINOIS T. S. SENATOR. A private telegraph dispatch received in New York, Wednesday evening, announces the election of Gen. Shields to the United States Senate, from Illinois, in place of Judge Breese, present Senator. Gen. S. opposes the extension of slavery. The Tribune says a curious discussion may grow out of this election, as Gen. S. is an Irishman, and is thought not to have been naturalized long enough.

RAILROAD TO THE PACIFIC.—A new project has been brought before Congress in the shape of a memorial from Wm. Hayward & Co., of New York, who propose to construct a Railroad from St. Louis to California, via the valleys of the Ohio Grand and the Gila rivers. The memorialists ask for a survey of the route by United States engineers and the grant of a strip of land of twenty five miles on each side of the road; they commanding on their part to deposit in the treasury \$5,000,000 in Government security, as a guaranty for the work, which they are to complete within eight years. They propose to sell lands, in small proportions, to actual settlers at government prices; to build the road of heavy iron; to carry army and naval stores free, and troops and sailors at one fourth the regular fare, which they propose shall not exceed one half the rates now charged by the Panama mail steamers.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT AND SENATE. John B. Wells, of Ohio, to be commissioner for running the boundary line between the United States and the republic of Mexico, under the 3d article of the treaty with that republic, concluded on the 2d of February, 1849, in the place of A. H. Sevier, who was nominated to the senate, and has since died.

William and Ellen Craft, man and wife, he black, and she white, engaged to pass for a white man, as she did, have escaped from slavery in Georgia, and arrived in Philadelphia. She, in coat and trousers, pretended to be the master of the black man, and as she could not write, tied up her right arm as an excuse for not entering her name at the hotel. It takes the women to be crafty, and they are often lucky in craft.

Protein	Protein in pellet (%)	Protein in supernatant (%)
BSA	~80	~80
IgG	~80	~80
PEG	~80	~95
Others	~80	~80

